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## Senate moves to ban illegal use of traffic-signal controllers

**Lansing** – Personal purchase, possession or use of traffic-signal controllers will result in fines and penalties under legislation passed today in the state Senate.

The legislation, sponsored by Sens. Tony Stamas (R-Midland) and Jud Gilbert (R-Algonac), is designed to limit the use of all signal preemption devices, such as Mobile Infrared Transmitters, to emergency personnel only.

"This is a step in the right direction to further protect Michigan's motorists," Gilbert said.

"Outlawing the use of these devices by regular drivers will prevent our roads from becoming a chaotic video game where everyone is trying to change the lights."

The devices emit a signal to receivers installed at intersections and, when within a 1,500-foot range, change the light immediately from red to green allowing emergency vehicles to clear intersections before approaching.

Since the devices operate on infrared signals, they do not emit radio signals like radar jammers and certain laser detectors. Therefore, they do not violate Federal Communications Commission guidelines.

"These devices are potentially dangerous," Stamas said. "To try and prevent unfortunate crashes, we have introduced this legislation making the use, possession and sale illegal. These devices should only be in the hands of emergency workers."

Michigan is leading the way in making make the devices illegal to own and operate.

Other states, including Indiana and Ohio, also are considering similar legislation. In addition, a bill has been introduced in the U.S. Congress.

Senate bills 842 and 843 now head to the House for consideration.